AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 8, 25, 30, 33, 35 to 37, and 46, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and amend claims 1, 9, 18, 28, 34, 38, 41, and 47, as shown below. This Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently amended)** A computer-implemented method of exchanging information among applications, the method comprising:

providing a plurality of transformers, each transformer corresponding to a unique transformation from one format into another;

using a first transformer to transform a data object from a format understandable by a first application into a common format data object;

determining an event type associated with the common format data object;

selecting, from among multiple communication channels each corresponding to a specific event type, a communication channel corresponding to the determined event type;

publishing the common format data object to **[[**a**]]** the selected communication channel~~, the channel being selected on the basis of the data object~~;

prioritizing communication of the published common format data object on the selected communication channel based on a relative priority associated with the selected communication channel;

subscribing to the selected communication channel to retrieve the published common format data object; and

using a second transformer to transform the published common format data object into a format understandable by a second application.

2. **(Original)** The method of claim **1** wherein the data object corresponds to one or more of a plurality of business events.

3. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim **1** wherein using the first transformer to transform the data object from the format understandable by the first application into the common format data object comprises translating the data object from a vendor-specific format associated with the first application to an Interface Description Language (IDL) object and storing the IDL object in a shared object model.

4. **(Original)** The method of claim **3** wherein the shared object model comprises a central repository of data objects corresponding to business events.

5. **(Original)** The method of claim **1** wherein using a first transformer to transform the data object from the format understandable by the first application into the common format data object is performed in response to a recognition of a business event by the first application.

6. **(Original)** The method of claim **1** wherein the method is performed in accordance with a plurality of process models that collectively define when information is to be exchanged among applications.

7. **(Original)** The method of claim **1** wherein publishing the common format data object to a communication channel is performed by a source connector and subscribing to the communication channel is performed by a target connector.

8. **(Cancelled)**

9. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim **1** wherein using the second transformer to transform the common format data object into the format

understandable by the second application comprises retrieving a stored Interface Description Language[[.]] (IDL) format object from a central repository and translating the IDL object into a vendor-specific format associated with the second application.

10. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 in which information is exchanged among business support systems or operational support systems or a combination thereof.

11. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 in which at least one of the transformers comprises a class defined in an object-oriented programming language.

12. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 further comprising providing, for each transformer, a controller that is configured to route data objects to an associated transformer.

13. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 12, further comprising routing a data object to the first transformer using a first controller.

14. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 12, further comprising routing the common format data object to the second transformer using a second controller.

15. **(Original)** The method of claim 12 in which at least one of the controllers comprises a class defined in an object-oriented programming language.

16. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 further comprising using an acknowledgement class to exchange status messages among applications.

17. **(Original)** The method of claim 16 further comprising using the acknowledgement class to perform exception handling.

18. **(Currently amended)** A computer-implemented method of facilitating the exchange of information among applications, the method comprising:

receiving a data object from a first application;

using a first controller to route the received data object to a first transformer;

using the first transformer to transform the data object from a first format used by the first application into a common format object;

determining an event type associated with the common format data object;

selecting, from among multiple communication channels each corresponding to a specific event type, a communication channel corresponding to the determined event type;

publishing the common format object to [[a]] the selected communication channel;

prioritizing communication of the published common format data object on the selected communication channel based on a relative priority associated with the selected communication channel;

receiving a request from a subscribing application to subscribe to the selected communication channel;

using a second controller to route the published common format object to a second transformer;

using the second transformer to transform the published common format object into a data object in a second format used by the subscribing application; and

sending the data object in the second format to the subscribing application.

19. **(Original)** The method of claim 18 wherein the data object received from the first application corresponds to one or more of a plurality of business events.

20. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim **18** wherein using the first transformer to transform the data object from the format used by the first application into the common format object comprises translating the data object from a vendor-specific format associated with the first application to an Interface Description Language (IDL) object and storing the IDL object in a shared object model.

21. **(Original)** The method of claim **20** wherein the shared object model comprises a central repository of data objects corresponding to business events.

22. **(Original)** The method of claim **18** wherein using the first transformer to transform the data object from the format used by the first application into the common format object is performed in response to a recognition of a business event by the first application.

23. **(Original)** The method of claim **18** wherein the method is performed in accordance with a plurality of process models that collectively define when information is to be exchanged among applications.

24. **(Original)** The method of claim **18** wherein, if requests are received from a plurality of subscribing applications, then, for each subscribing application, the common format object is transformed using an associated transformer into a format corresponding to the subscribing application and sent to the subscribing application.

25. **(Cancelled)**

26. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim **18** wherein using the second transformer to transform the common format object into a data object in the second format used by the subscribing application comprises retrieving a stored Interface Description Language (IDL) format object from a central repository and translating the IDL object into a vendor-specific format associated with the subscribing application.

27. **(Original)** The method of claim 18 in which information is exchanged among business support systems or operational support systems or a combination thereof.

28. **(Currently amended)** A system for facilitating the exchange of information among applications, the system comprising:

a plurality of digital computers, each of which executes an application, each application being configured to exchange information representative of business events with other applications; and

an integration hub in data communication with each of the digital computers for enabling transfer of information representative of business events between applications, the integration hub including a computer-readable medium on which is encoded instructions for causing a computer to perform operations comprising: ~~define~~

receiving a data object from a first application executing on a first of the plurality of digital computers;

using a first controller to route the received data object to a first transformer;

using the first transformer to transform the data object from a first format used by the first application into a common format object;

determining an event type associated with the common format data object;

selecting, from among multiple communication channels each corresponding to a specific event type, a communication channel corresponding to the determined event type;

publishing the common format object to the selected communication channel;

prioritizing communication of the published common format data object on the selected communication channel based on a relative priority associated with the selected communication channel;

receiving a request from a subscribing application executing on a second of the plurality of digital computers to subscribe to the selected communication channel;

using a second controller to route the published common format object to a second transformer;

using the second transformer to transform the published common format object into a data object in a second format used by the subscribing application; and

sending the data object in the second format to the subscribing application.

~~a plurality of process models each defining one or more conditions for sending a business event from an application to one or more other applications;~~

~~a shared object model configured to store data objects received from applications in a common format;~~

~~a plurality of transformer classes configured to translate data object from a format used by one or more applications into the common format or vice versa; and~~

~~a plurality of controller classes configured to route data objects to associated transformer classes.~~

29. **(Original)** The system of claim 28 further comprising a channel architecture defining a plurality of communication channels to which data objects from an application are to be published.

30. **(Cancelled)**

31. **(Original)** The system of claim **28** further comprising an acknowledgement class configured to exchange status messages among applications.

32. **(Original)** The system of claim **31** wherein the acknowledgement class is further configured to perform exception handling.

33. **(Cancelled)**

34. **(Currently amended)** The system of claim **28** wherein the common format data object corresponds to a shared object model, the shared object model comprises a central repository of data objects in an Interface Description Language[[.]] (IDL) format.

35 to 37. **(Cancelled)**

38. **(Currently amended)** A machine-readable medium having encoded thereon instructions for facilitating the exchange of information among applications, execution of the instructions causing one or more machines to perform operations comprising:

receiving a data object from a first application;

using a first controller to route the received data object to a first transformer;

using the first transformer to transform the data object from a first format used by the first application into a common format object;

determining an event type associated with the common format data object;

selecting, from among multiple communication channels each corresponding to a specific event type, a communication channel corresponding to the determined event type;

publishing the common format object to [[a]] the selected communication channel;

prioritizing communication of the published common format data object on the selected communication channel based on a relative priority associated with the selected communication channel;

receiving a request from a subscribing application to subscribe to the selected communication channel;

using a second controller to route the published common format object to a second transformer;

using the second transformer to transform the published common format object into a data object in a second format used by the subscribing application; and

sending the data object in the second format to the subscribing application.

39. **(Original)** The instructions of claim 38 wherein the machine-readable instructions comprise computer software instructions executable by one or more computer systems.

40. **(Original)** The instructions of claim 38 wherein the data object received from the first application corresponds to one or more of a plurality of business events.

41. **(Currently amended)** The instructions of claim 38 wherein using the first transformer to transform the data object from the format used by the first application into the common format object comprises translating the data object from a vendor-specific format associated with the first application to an Interface Description Language[[.]] (IDL) object and storing the IDL object in a shared object model.

42. **(Original)** The instructions of claim 41 wherein the shared object model comprises a central repository of data objects corresponding to business events.

43. **(Original)** The instructions of claim 38 wherein using the first transformer to transform the data object from the format used by the first application into the common format object is performed in response to a recognition of a business event by the first application.

44. **(Original)** The instructions of claim 38 wherein one or more of the instructions are executed in accordance with a plurality of process models that collectively define when information is to be exchanged among applications.

45. **(Original)** The instructions of claim 38 wherein, if requests are received from a plurality of subscribing applications, then, for each subscribing application, the common format object is transformed using an associated transformer into a format corresponding to the subscribing application and sent to the subscribing application.

46. **(Cancelled)**

47. **(Currently amended)** The instructions of claim 38 wherein using the second transformer to transform the common format object into the data object in the second format used by the subscribing application comprises retrieving a stored Interface Description Language[[.]] (IDL) format object from a central repository and translating the IDL object into a vendor-specific format associated with the subscribing application.

48. **(Original)** The instructions of claim 38 in which information is exchanged among business support systems or operational support systems or a combination thereof.

49. **(New)** The method of claim 1 wherein prioritizing communication of the published common format data object on the selected communication channel

based on a relative priority associated with the selected communication channel comprises prioritizing communication of the published common format data object on the selected communication channel based on a relative priority of the selected communication channel with respect to other communication channels included in the multiple communication channels.

50. **(New)** The method of claim 1 wherein:

the common format data object corresponds to a business event, and

prioritizing communication of the published common format data object on the selected communication channel based on a relative priority associated with the selected communication channel comprises prioritizing communication of the published common format data object on the selected communication channel to ensure business events are sent to applications in a correct order.

51. **(New)** The method of claim 1 wherein each of the multiple communication channels are configured to only communicate common format data objects of the specific event type corresponding to the communication channel.

52. **(New)** The method of claim 1 wherein the multiple communication channels are prioritized to ensure that business events are sent to applications in a correct order.

53. **(New)** The method of claim 1 further comprising publishing an acknowledgement message to an acknowledgement communication channel assigned to communicate acknowledgement messages, the acknowledgement channel being different than the selected communication channel and the acknowledgement message indicating success or failure of communication of information included in the common format data object to the second application.

54. (New) A computer-implemented method of facilitating the exchange of information among applications, the method comprising:

receiving a first data object corresponding to a first business event from a first application;

receiving a second data object corresponding to a second business event from the first application, the second data object being different than the first data object and the second business event being different than the first business event;

transforming the first data object from a first format used by the first application into a first common format data object corresponding to the first business event;

transforming the second data object from the first format used by the first application into a second common format data object corresponding to the second business event;

publishing the first common format data object to a first channel assigned to communicate common format data objects that correspond to the first business event;

publishing the second common format data object to a second channel assigned to communicate common format data objects that correspond to the second business event, the second channel being different than the first channel;

prioritizing communication of the first common format data object on the first channel and communication of the second common format data object on the second channel to ensure that the first common format data object corresponding to the first business event and the second common format data object corresponding to the second business event are sent to applications in a correct order;

transforming the first common format object into a data object corresponding to the first business event in a second format used by a second application;

transforming the second common format object into a data object corresponding to the second business event in a third format used by a third application;

sending the data object in the second format to the second application;

sending the data object in the third format to the third application;

publishing a first acknowledgement message to a third channel assigned to communicate acknowledgement messages, the third channel being different than the first channel and the second channel and the first acknowledgement message indicating success or failure of communication of the first business event to the second application; and

publishing a second acknowledgement message to the third channel assigned to communicate acknowledgement messages, the second acknowledgement message indicating success or failure of communication of the second business event to the third application.

55. (New) The method of claim **54** further comprising:

sending the first acknowledgement message to the first application; and

sending the second acknowledgement message to the first application.

56. (New) The method of claim **54** further comprising:

storing the first acknowledgement message in an error log; and

storing the second acknowledgement message in the error log.

57. (New) The method of claim 54 wherein receiving the first data object corresponding to the first business event from the first application and receiving the second data object corresponding to the second business event from the first application comprises receiving a first data object and a second data object sent concurrently from the first application in response to user input received by the first application from an operator.